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AN  
ORATION  
COMMEMORATIVE OF THE  
CHARACTER OF PATRICK HENRY.

BY  
HENRY H. TATOR, ESQ.

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## DEDICATORY EPISTLE.

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Standing on an oaken dock in a clear port, and observing at a distance between the ocean and the sky, a speck approaching, slowly transforming and enlarging itself to a stately ship, till soon its mighty presence lifts up the feelings with the sight of a sublime object of human skill and genius, is pleasant ; yet to stand on the dock of time, look out on the sea of finite affairs, and behold rising to view a youth, the royal prince of Heaven's King, whose developing genius fast becomes mightier and mightier, till the world gives its heart to his heart, and its hand to his hand, and is led God-ward, like a bride to the altar, is even more pleasant. Orators are the guides of freedom and the handmaids of republics. Oratory is an art which the highest refinements of civilization will never fail to preserve, employ, enjoy and perfect. If all men were orators, then surely, every orator would have a most appreciating auditory of his art ; for who can appreciate an orator like an orator ! yet there are many we know not possessing the practical art of glowing and impressive speech, who can, notwithstanding, from their inner souls, sympathize with an orator and follow him to sublimest heights. The



lens of the camera obscura, bring the rays of light from external things to a focus, thereby presenting a beauteous picture of them in miniature ; thus the reflections of a superior mind draw to it the laws which govern the relative and positive relations of mind to matter, and of matter to mind, till the harmony and beauty of nature may be seen in its clear and expoundatory works. Human eloquence is sweeter than sphere music, and eloquent thoughts are eternal treasures from mind to mind. This pledge of my admiration for the eloquence and patriotism of Patrick Henry, I dedicate to my firmly patriotic friend, and to a man indeed, ranking among the most accomplished orators of the age,

• PROF. CHAS. WHITNEY.



## ORATION.

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### FRIENDS OF UNIVERSAL FREEDOM :

Studying the nature and character of the earth, ascertaining its uses, and holding forth its beauties, till they are beheld and admired universally, is a delightful duty. Looking into the Heavens, discovering the bodies of useful beauty which compose them, and explaining their characteristics and the object for which they were created, is also a duty of surpassing delight. Examining the human system, prying into its complex, yet perfect mechanism so handsomely wrought by the Divine hand, and presenting its explanatory counterpart in some form whereby it shall arrest and absorb a universal attention, is truly a happifying duty. Yet expounding the marshal-like parts, of a great and noble character, garnishing them by judicious praise, and thereby induce others to reproduce them in the various pursuits of life, is of many pleasant duties the most pleasant. It is the general character of every man which exerts the very considerable influence, for raising up or tearing down the welfare of mankind. Men of reflection and study have characters, whose influence is perchance more remote and less immediate, though scarcely less positive and powerful over others, than men of action and material enterprise. In commemorating great characters, a commemorator's first duty



is, to learn what were the mental elements which composed their genius; second, what were their chief practical virtues of heart; lastly, what were the grand influential works they projected or achieved. Commemorators should absorb the lesser in the greater merits of those whom they commemorate, as smaller raindrops are absorbed by the larger ones in their descent to the earth; for true it is, that generalities more quickly and easily become actualities to the human mind, than particulars, more especially when the latter are so numerous and intricate, as not to be readily understood, as they often are, when connected with the arts and sciences.

Patriek Henry's boyhood glided away without his seeming to be eager, as to the manner in which its moments should be employed; yet without doubt, though not bound down to books, nor confined in tedious school rooms, he still learned much by observation that was inappreciably useful, and by an unshowy reflection, became in reality much wiser than men thought him to be. His inherited genius found teachers in the elements, school-mates in his own thoughts, and eloquence in them all. He acted as though he thought it far better to seem a dull boy, than to be in the future, and in fact, a man of dullness; and to develop his body in youth, and let his mind subsequently develop itself. Certainly the budding fruits of young Henry's mind showed feeble signs of becoming at their maturity, such delicious food to nourish and support an embryonian republic as they were found to be. There are those who have been intellectually great when young, who in mature life, arose to the highest intellectual standard; and those also who have been intel-



lectually bright in youth, who in after years, declined in mental power; and those too who have been addleminded in childhood, and acute minded in age; so that youth sometimes is, and sometimes is not, the forerunner of a glorious or an inglorious manhood. Francis Bacon was a bright youth, and his manhood was in point of mental brightness without rivalship. Hermogenes was brilliant when young, but subsequently became dull in his art as a rhetorician. Cato, the younger, manifested rather indifferent mental capacity during his early years, notwithstanding which, he afterwards became a man of learning and wisdom, an heroic general, profound statesman, and gracious ruler. A wise youth will make a still wiser man, if the wisest mode is taken by him to live up time; and a good youth will make a still better man, if the best steps are made by him to get through life. A child left to work out its own nature, will mature its body and mind together, nor exercise either too much for the health of the other. Children who feel a pressing inspiration of soul, incline not to let their real power be known, till they feel able to surpass all others in some specific attempt, and thus spend their early hours in mute reflection and silent observation, till they feel assured by something within them, that their good time has come; for real greatness ever leaves mediocrity far behind it, in its first true mental effort. The man who shows himself to be inspired, by the power, beauty and truthfulness of his productions, was the child inspired, also, though not shown to us in any wise; for genius is possessed at birth, if possessed at all by any human being; and it may be developed by judicious culture to an unknown degree, though it can not be



acquired in the least degree, by any means known to man. The tremulous leaf does not create the wind, it merely informs us that it exists and has motion; likewise the works of mind do not originate it, they only show us that it is in existence, and has a self-developing action.

Mr. Henry's capital with which to commence professional life, or indeed any life, consisted of a kind wife and lovely children, entire poverty, a few friends, ordinary acquirements in classical learning, quite a limited knowledge of the practice of his profession, though rather conversant with its principles; a sound physical constitution, and uncommon endowments of native intellect with imagination, and a correct and extensive knowledge of men. He arose to public attention by displaying a decided capacity for popular eloquence, in the defence of a suitor's just cause, and in his advocacy of colonial independence. Unlike Theæseus, he sought no demolishing of cities, nor slaughtering of eminent public citizens, who might impede his progress toward fame and wide extending notoriety; yet like the noble Romulus, who also rose from the deepest obscurity to a rare and goodly repute, he applied his native powers to elevate and dignify the State, to better the general condition of a nation, to obtain for his country the most natural and enlarged liberty, and to establish a republic in which every citizen might enjoy private and public advantages and privileges equally. Not what we are at the opening of life so much as what we are at its close, is it, that will embalm our memories in the bosom of our children, and make us acceptable in the World above. An obscure birth with a world lamented death.



is more creditable than a world-hailing birth, followed by a death of self-wrought ignominy. Two strong hands, an enlightened head, and an aimable heart, form the finest setting up in life a young man can enjoy. Being born to galbian wealth is a feeble step towards greatness; inheriting a princely renown is no assurance of forthcoming usefulness; and a good man can be made up of nothing but good deeds performed by himself. The sun of itself, has no power to withhold its allighting beams from the family of planets which surround it; thus an entirely good man, can not avoid acting kindly towards those around him, it being a necessity of his very existence and superior organization. Providence in his power might have created man to suffer absolute and eternal pain, rather than to have endowed him with faculties for unceasing pleasure; thus a nation's chosen hero and champion, could with his almost limitless power, bind it beneath him, or refuse to be its pilot and protector in the fiercest storm of State trouble, and thereby consign it to distress, rather than confer on it safety and delight. In no wise can a man make known his deserving of power, so advantageously, as when conferring blessings on those who grant him his power, and that too in precise ratio as they grant it to him. Earthquakes are imbecile, floods are weak and impotent, conflagrations are puerile and powerless, when compared with the next to almighty capacity and power of a wise, virtuous, and eloquent man, to awaken its fears of sin, or arouse to deeds and emotions of purity, the vast human family.

Mr. Henry's success as a lawyer was, we know, proportionate to his display of legal



ability and learning, of experience in practice, and of oratorical capacity; the first quality and possession he displayed at the outset to an astonishing degree, so far as applying the principles of law to the matter and case in question and contest went; the second of course time and repeated trial rendered him adept and skillful in; and the third power in him, was like the rhetorical art of *Isæus*, ever ready for use and ever excellent when used. With opponents he was fair, if kind, honorable and courteous actions towards them may be called fairness; nor did he trespass on, or restrain, the rights of another in any way to gain illegitimate success for himself; for with him, as with every true man, magnanimity was no minor characteristic. However, when opposed he was found strong; when assailed, he became a dauntless self-defender; when oppressed, he shewed himself giantly and irresistibly strong; when triumphant, he was mild and unpharasaical; and when triumphed over, (which was of rare occurrence) he admired and spoke well of the tact and skillfulness, rather than enveiled the merit of the victor. Distinguished success in the business in which a man enlists his faculties, though not always attained, is always to be striven for.

To observe a plant leave forth in spring time, and ere long bend beneath fragrant flowers, as its true and graceful laurels is a precious sight; yet to see the young set out in spring life, and soon behold them men among men, beloved by the lovely, prospering among those who prosper, and ladened at length with the honors and enjoyments of life, is a scene of transcendent beauty and preciousness.



Success adds wind to wing, and courage to all skill,  
 Buys up the struggling youth, leaving it higher still.  
 Woo success in youth, wed her grace in age,  
 Youth has her heart, her hand belongs to age.  
 The steel-forked rod, splits the electric ball,  
 Breaking its force, protects itself and all  
 Within the unharm'd mansion; thus with young  
 Though well armed men, what ere begun  
 Breaks fiery opposition through, unscathed indeed,  
 Nor withal even match'd.  
 Nerveful spirits, bruised by failure; like hares  
 Slightly wounded by archers glancing arrows,  
 Bound stronger and swifter on their course.  
 Toil is chief satellite to the globe success.  
 Ease leads to failure, and failure to distress.

It is not in having such great powers of mind, it is in using the best we have for the best purposes which they can be used, that constitutes the man. A young man who by inexperience and its attendant missteps becomes webbed in difficulties, and falls in his early wrestlings with the world, to gain a master position therein, and then only makes an effort sufficient to place himself merely a foot, erect, and scarce manlike again, instead of resolving and re-resolving all through his body and soul, to eventually become the Milo of men; resembles that sportsman, not conversant with the woodlands through which he is passing and without compass, loses his true course, becomes bewildered, discouraged and prepares to die, instead of buoying up against misfortune, rising like one nerved in might, using the sun for a compass, marking out some plausible course for himself, marching onward with the confidence of safety and final success, nevertheless with a bosom filled with divine love and dependence.

Mr. Henry's influence as a practical statesman was exceedingly great, as it was indis-



pensably useful to the success of the early struggle of the injured colonies in their faith created cause of civil and religious freedom. He was no man to stand in alcove, and let his fellow-countrymen toil on in the contest of human rights, and then if successful to come in for his unearned share of their life sealed, and blood-written liberties. Like Publicola of Athens, his country needed help, and he was ready to give it all the aid in his power, freely and unfeignedly, and also to meet whatever fate might await him if required for his country's benefit. His all-swaying speaking powers, were devotedly employed in behalf of projecting and enacting some plan, that would awaken his countrymen by mutual resolve, to resist British stringency of government, and to conceive, propound, and adopt a wiser and more acceptable one for themselves. His eloquent exposure of the ignoble connivances of England against the colony, fired up every American's self-dependent feeling; and his bold torch of speech lit up the chandelier of liberty on the continent of America.

A country can scarcely have a greater blessing than an eloquent and sagaciously patriotic statesman. The light castle may illumine the mariner's watery path, and shew him the whereabouts of the ocean's channel, yet can not compel him to follow it; likewise the beaming sagacity of a statesman may be shed over his country as its guardian councils yet can not compel it to put them in practical use. A statesman's fame and memory should be as dear to the state, as liberty itself. Unearned fame is a transient blessing, and when it leaves its claimant, the rubbish of broken hearted vanity and of melancholy memory, are all that



remain. Of many kinds of excellent fame that of high eloquence in the noblest cause excels them all. A noble fame is verily not a mound of sand, to be washed down by every descending shower of successive rivalry, thereby becoming gradually reduced to a mediocratic level; it is rather a peering mountain, high as eternal light, solid as fiery rock; successfully bearing up forests of generations who cling around it from base to brow, defying all time and trial and death, balancing the earth, and joining earth to heaven, still overlooking from its cloudless heights, a world up-gazing in astonishment, veneration and delight.

Mr. Henry's personal attractions as an orator, were numerous and great; his noble form, stood boldly and upright in debate, like Achilles in mid-council with the gods; his hand moved like a wand incarnate, as confirming witness of the power of his argument, and the propriety of his cause; his look on momentous occasions, was like one who could express a nation's pains or pleasures in his own countenance; his enchanting tones of voice, were ever variable, like earthly and sphere notes mingled; he arose to speak like an armed man, and sat down in conclusion, with the calmness and dignity of a conqueror.

Immortal Henry! father of American orators! pioneer patriot in the cause of thy country's independence! Whenever the fame of American eloquence is recalled to memory by posterity, the fame of Patrick Henry will send the first if not the deepest thrills of delight through its heart. Whenever another demi-angelic nation now bowed down by oppression may yet raise up its injured form, and bid its oppressors go



hence, his image will rise to view like an unearthly light, and as an omen of approaching triumph. Whenever an American loses for a moment his faith in her cause, and his devotion to her principles, the voice that caused the house of burgesses to warm up at its sound, till the hearts of millions melted into one, will pierce his soul with the shout of "Liberty or death." Whenever Americans forget his name, and remember him no more, foul and bloody fields will again blot their country's surface, and universal tyranny will again tread on the neck of scarred and fallen liberty. Whenever a republic becomes so proudly prosperous, as to feel careless in regard to the memory of her early founders, of her wisest and best men, and of her death-stricken patriots, the brightness and length of her day will grow dimmer and shorter, till that darkness comes which shall remain unbroken. Whenever American sword shall be redyed, and her waters rechromed with the gore of her loving children, slain on her own pure bosom, and in her own maternal defence, should that once valiantly experienced scene ever return, her inheritors if worthy of their origin, will triumph in her cause or die with it. Whenever the fame of one who rose in speech, and the proud Parsons fled; who rose again, and his country claimed a Pericles; again, and British tyranny throughout America shrieked in death; is deemed unworthy of treasurable notice, or deserving of only an indifferent tribute, the finger that turned the dead rock on Sinai's summit to a living oracle of divinity, will be pointed at us smitingly; and the eye that saw the law of Paradise broken, will turn to us frowningly. The deep future



will embrace his memory, the latest age will rejoice in it; nor will it be lost to the world, till the world is lost to American liberty.

Mr. Henry's character in every position of life, was a high and honest credit to his country. He was the righthand friend of human freedom and of universal rights, a famous pattern of social purity, and a demi-angel among men. His essential services to his country in her very moment of fearfulest peril; his comprehensive patriotism and well known decided unbending and abiding fidelity to the cause of republicanism; his Melancthonian purity of motive in any course he marked out for himself, or cause he espoused, elicited from distinguished sources testimonials of hearts sent and head sanctioned approbation and grateful esteem. Like Themistocles, he resolved to serve his country as a son should serve his sire, nor sought for other rewards, than the reflection that he had performed some services which contributed to her special benefit and well being. "*Pro bono publico ul infinitum*," was his maxim as a statesman; and no man illustrated and expounded the meaning of his precepts more fully than did he by nearly every public and private act. He feared consolidation of power from the forming of a constitution, vesting such wide extended powers and influence in the hands of a few, as he believed the introduction of the Constitution of the United States would, and if he erred in opposing its ratification for this and similar reasons, then surely it was an error which is attributable to an excess, rather than to a want of cautious, zealous patriotism and anxiety for the permanency of the republic.

How rare! how very rare is it to meet with a statesman, however much good he may do, or



benefit confer on his country generally, in his political capacity, to find him withal and above all a man of social purity and of exemplary habits in private life ! How rare ! how very rare is it to find public men professing loyalty to a nation redeem what they profess alike at the meridian blaze of its prosperity, and at the midnight gloom of its adversity ! and likewise, to find them ever just, because generously reasonable, and ever reasonable because generously just. Constituents can not engage themselves more usefully, nor expend some portion of their means more profitably, nor employ their time more agreeably, than in proffering appropriate tokens of regard, and of their high appreciation of distinguished services faithfully rendered by those who have represented them and their interests loyally in whatever public capacity they may have been placed ; it is like the revival of good old times, when Olympian victors and champions received the expressions of high consideration and regard from their friends and admirers in returning from their renowned games ; or when the wise men of Greece and the sages of antiquity, after having traveled and taught their far-famed systems of philosophy abroad, and performed acts which redounded to the credit of their beloved and native country, received on their return marks and testimonials of eminent favor, and valuable tokens of esteem from their grateful and honored countrymen, which were presented to them in a manner, and with an appropriateness that brought unalloyed felicity to the united hearts of ten thousand bosoms. All but God may err, therefore no one error of a great statesman, not wilfully premeditated and perpetrated, should at all lessen him in the



true regard of his immediate constituents, or of the country generally, or even cause a falling away of just admiration and esteem for those past services which he may have performed, and that entwine around his name, memory and character, and which endear him to the multitudes whom his labors have benefited.

Mr. Henry was an orator. He was the greatest American orator of his age, and as a ready extempore, natural speaker, he stands perhaps unapproached by any age. He was born with the powers and faculties of an orator, and he developed them amply with forty years of unceasing discipline. Nature was his oratorical model, his oratorical instructor, and his only oratorical master. Men it is said, often lost their self-control while listening to him; for they would smile when he smiled, weep when he wept, defy when he defied, and resolve when he resolved, in his addressing them. And so absolute and complete was his control over his audience, that he seemed indeed as nature's own chosen Nestor. He did not speak as though art had made him an orator, but as though nature herself had made him what he was; nor would he give art the credit that was due only to nature. He was a noble son of nature, liberty's beloved brother, and father of the American Revolution. As liberty has existed in the bosom of humanity since the creation of the latter, and though at distant, yet suitable periods, will burst loose, though world-bound, assert its name and act out its nature; so eloquence, which is and has been an element of constitutional humanity since the air of heaven first inflated the lungs of man, occasionally springs out boldly from the growing ranks of



the oft-times benighted generations, asserts an admirable supremacy and a controlling influence along the files of the centuries. Men should unceasingly cultivate the faculties and art of eloquence, as well for the delightful emotions it affords, as for the great uses, objects and ends it subserves in preserving and propagating every good cause and gracious custom. True eloquence is found in head-conceived, heart-warmed, and well expressed truths. Some men's eloquence is that of sensation, and others is that of emotion; the former is startling, the latter is soothing; and when both are well joined in the same person, that person's power of eloquence has reached a high round towards oratorical perfection. A true orator rises in native majesty, and the surrounding tumult ceases instantly; speaks with his vocal thunders, and his listeners bow in obedience to his mandates; raises his arm of accomplished gesture, and the hearts of his beholders for a moment cease to beat; rolls his entrancing eye, and all eyes sparkle at his electric glance; his words are flying pencils of every color and skill; his thoughts are living portraits of every shape and size; his actions are resistless arguments to the most obstinate observers; his object is to reform the wayward, to advance the reformed, and to perfect all advancement.

Mr. Henry's official conduct, as first Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was well received through the States generally, and gave additional lustre to his reputation as a statesman. He was cautious, yet not tamely timid; firm, yet not wilfully stubborn; dispatchful, yet not rashly precipitous; just, yet not scrupulous beyond good sense; and many of the highest qualities belonging to human



nature were strikingly developed even in his character as a practical statesman. He governed, so that at the expiration of his term of office, those for whose weal he had accepted power and place could not honestly feel themselves wronged by his actions, or deceived in the confidence they had reposed in a fellow commonwealthman. His terms of governorship were characterized by discretion and moderation by public enterprise and State prosperity, and by a rapid increase of State credit. His repeated and unsolicited elevation to this high and useful position, is the best proof of his transcendent capacity to conduct affairs of State creditably to himself and to his constituency.

A ruler's first duty is obedience to the laws of State. His next duty is to see that every other citizen obeys them likewise, and if any law is confessedly bad to seek repealation quickly, rather than its disobedience at all. Numerous divisions of legislative, judicial and executive powers, are necessary to preserve a healthy organization of State government; also frequent changes of persons who occupy the higher places in State Administration, is a great preventive of the abuse, arising from any thing like hereditary State rulership. Our knowledge of statesmanship, as a science, like our knowledge of most of the sciences, is yet in its first growth; nor can men reasonably look for its full maturity in any inconsiderable length of time to come. A system of government so complete as to render it all but impossible for a nation living up to it strictly, to fall from the highest republican plain and standard; a system built and standing on enlarged, yet prudent experiments, always strengthened and never weakened by every successive experiment, gaining solidity



and power steadily, and firmly keeping them when gained ; hazarding nothing unreasonably, yet reasonably venturing every thing for the substantial good of men ; will amply and entirely repay all reflection given to it, and experimental labor performed on it, though it should require more years than have yet rolled away, since the dawn of humanity on the earth, to effect its consummation.

The permanency of a governmental system seems to depend, on the fact whether the majority will or will not support it ; unless, indeed, the power of armies and navies can be readily interposed by the minority ; nor can it be upheld any considerable time by these stringent and unnatural means of its support. Even the finest system of government could not remain stable and secure, while it tended in general not to give the balance of its population, that is to say, its agriculturists, its tradesmen, its mechanics, and laborers generally, a fair if not an inviting chance to acquire a comfortable sustenance if not a fine competency by due industry and perseverance and by the exercise of judgment and skill in their respective callings. Education, capacity, and genius, though they may seem, on a superficial examination, as tending to permanent and destructive inequality, yet they will be found on correct analysis tending to an ultimate and preserving equality through a nation ; for their possession is of little good to a man unless he uses them, and he can not use them without influencing others directly, by which means an entire state and even all humanity may be favorably impressed ; therefore every step of individual improvement and advancement however bold and novel in its nature, and though



positively producing an equality of attainment between men at first, will nevertheless by and by elevate the great masses of humanity by its general diffusion. Mankind knew but a moiety, as it were, of human and divine philosophy till the ancient seers, Pythagoras, Confucius and Socrates revealed it to them. Mankind knew but little of the power and practical use of true oratory, in promoting and preserving state prosperity, till Pericles, Demosthenes and Cicero appeared among them. Homer, Virgil, Shakspeare and Milton rose above their times and left their respective ages behind them. Bacon, Locke and Gall have opened a self-illuminating path of endless general advancement and improvement by their bold researches in the science of mind. Mankind knew but little, and that little was the very false facedness of vaguery as to the real nature and character of the heavens, till the advent of Galileo, Copernicus, Newton and Herschel on the earth. Now, each of these men by the very superiority of their genius, produced an inequality, in point of mental power and attainments, between them and their contemporaries, wide as the east from the west. Notwithstanding all this, successive generations through the special agencies of books, of lectures, and of instructive diagrams, illustrative of their works, and of the works and improvements of their followers, have produced ten thousand fold greater equality between these distinguished spirits and the present age, than existed between them and the ages in which they lived and flourished, because all which they knew and taught has since been so generally studied and acquired by succeeding generations.

Mr. Henry was especially gifted with a



conversational talent of the richest and most attractive cast. Charming indeed was his companionship, charming were all topics of general or particular converse rendered by his very felicitous touch. His pure and lovely smile, his bright yet mildly set eye, his expressive and benign countenance, his graceful and familiar gesture, his entire ease and gentleness of manner, his proverbial respect for the finest feelings of all in his presence, his eminent and vividly descriptive ability, his happy mode of relating illustrative anecdotes, and of appropriately interspersing them through a conversation, his native simplicity of language, his glowing, tinting, luxuriant, and even emblazoning imagination and fancy, gave him a power and sweeping influence in the circles of social life. He was beloved by his family, as his family only could love a consummate husband and father; by his familiar friends and acquaintances he was beloved as brothers love a brother; and distinguished travelers and strangers who visited him to offer their tributes of respect, admiration, and veneration at the shrine of living greatness, ever left his abode with the happyfying heart feeling, that they had found another friend, and formed a cherishable friendship with a great, a good and a lovely spirit. A man who is endowed with faculties fitting him to embellish social life, may impart to society a tone of rationality, of religious elevation, and of private purity of manners, thought and feelings almost beyond credibility. An anti-Upas tree imparts health in lieu of disease through a land; thus a man of pure social converse and habits, diffuses happiness instead of misery, through the community which he inhabits and influences.



As star beams mingling with soft lunar rays,  
 Shed o'er the earth their beauty; thus social joys  
 Joined with purest feelings, throw o'er life  
 Mantles of softest bliss; hushing all outward strife,  
 Bewildering to manhood, still challenged by the hope  
 Of earthly glory.  
 Morning zephyrs cooling the blushing cheek  
 Awake the soul, and bid the tongue to speak  
 In praise of social joy; noonday's genial breeze,  
 Touching melodious harp strings gently leaves  
 Listeners in social harmony; then evening airs  
 Breathe forth their sacred lays, till half the world repairs  
 To rest in social bosoms.

Purity of thought, loftiness of feeling, and a truthful conversation, are three things which ought to distinguish every man who mingles with any society. The conversation of friends is a chalice filled with ingredients purer than light, nourishing as truth, delicious as love, and all heavenizing to the heart. The instructive conversation of a virtuous man is as balm of Gilead to a heart bruised by vice and painfully forlorn. Social vices need their healing asylums as much as mono mania; and social virtues are the cordial restoratives for both. A pure and noble spirit when it gives its presence to society, in whatever capacity and duty it may appear, elevates and ennobles the feelings and bearing of all who listen to it, or behold it; as Orpheus when in the company of others, purified and delighted their souls with his celestial strains, and spiritual expression of countenance.

Mr. Henry's junior years, to all outward appearance, passed away as did Shakspeare's, in rather an unconcerned ease, yet, no doubt, with the restless secret workings of genius within. His senior years were employed as were Fene-  
 lon's, chiefly in pious reflection, in entertain-  
 ing friends, and in useful general reading. At



his birth his country was groping its low way beneath Erebian oppression; at his death it was soaring on the highway of an Elysian liberty. His genius protected and honored America, and America will honor and protect his genius. He lived and labored for the prosperity of his country, and his country in its highest prosperity will hold him in grateful and fatherly recollection. His fame is such that neither eulogy can elevate it, nor marble perpetuate it, nor history add one atom or unit to its massive glory; for it is enthroned in the American heart, and it dwells in the American memory.





















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